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Security Council
Sixty-fourth year

Letter dated 23 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you in connection with the letter of the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, John Mourikis, addressed to you and circulated, at his request, as document A/63/869-S/2009/285 on 3 June 2009.

The Republic of Macedonia notes again with regret the tone adopted by the Government of the Hellenic Republic, as reflected in the letter transmitted by its Permanent Representative.

The Republic of Macedonia further regrets that the Hellenic Republic has failed to provide any of the requested information to substantiate the general allegations on the issues addressed in the letter of the Permanent Representative of the Hellenic Republic of 6 February 2009. The Republic of Macedonia confirms that it is ready to provide necessary clarifications and responses on these issues if and when raised and including, to the extent necessary, in the course of the International Court of Justice legal proceedings.

The Republic of Macedonia refutes all the allegations set out in the letter, in particular the allegations relating to historical matters. The Republic of Macedonia notes with regret that the Government of the Hellenic Republic persists in making unfounded and politicized allegations which do little to enhance mutual trust, dialogue and good-neighbourliness in the region.

The Republic of Macedonia wishes to make clear once again that it fails to see how the common use of the name of historic personalities could in any way be said to be inconsistent with the requirements of the 1995 Interim Accord.

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In accordance with the principles of the Interim Accord, the Republic of Macedonia has repeatedly proposed the establishment of a Joint Macedonian-Greek Committee on Education and History. Such an initiative could contribute to the creation of mutual confidence.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Republic of Macedonia restates its objection to the various claims raised, which are without foundation. The Hellenic Republic has again made no reference to any note verbale that it has communicated to the Republic of Macedonia in the period prior to 3 April 2008 that raises the concerns referred to, including allegations of material breach of the 1995 Interim Accord or any purported notification of the right to take any countermeasures.

The Republic of Macedonia is strongly committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as of the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in all relevant United Nations and other international instruments, including the European Convention on Human Rights. The advancement of the cooperation and good-neighbourliness with the Hellenic Republic is among the top priority issues on our foreign policy agenda. The Republic of Macedonia expresses the hope that the Hellenic Republic shares this commitment and will equally observe the said principles and provisions in pursuing its foreign policy agenda.

I would like to reiterate the continued commitment on the part of the Republic of Macedonia to negotiate a mutually satisfactory resolution of the difference that has arisen over its name, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 817 (1993) and 845 (1993).

I should be grateful if the present letter would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 83 and 109, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Slobodan **Tašovski**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative